

# EDNA MOUNTAIN II TIMBER SALE

November 20, 2006 Land Board

## **LOCATION OF SALE:**

- Stillwater Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 4.5 air miles west of Trego, Montana
- Lincoln County - Section 16, T34N-R26W
- 100% Common Schools

## **SALE VOLUME AND ESTIMATED VALUE:**

- The estimated volume is 18,582 tons (2,789 MBF), with an estimated minimum value of \$486,848.00.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$3.12/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.66 tons/MBF is the conversion factor

## **SALE & HARVEST TREATMENTS:**

- The sale contains 8 harvest units totaling 227 acres.
- Silvicultural prescriptions include 35 acres of commercial thin and 192 acres of seed tree harvest. Seed tree harvests would promote the natural regeneration of western larch, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir.
- Current stocking levels in the proposed sale area are very high. **This is an urban interface area, and the reduction of wildfire fuels is an integral part of the proposed harvest prescription. This reduction of fuels and stems per acre is also expected to improve overall forest health in the project area.**
- No old growth would be harvested.

## **HARVEST SYSTEMS:**

- 100% tractor

## **ROAD CONSTRUCTION:**

- Approximately 0.35 miles of reconstruction is needed to access the harvest units and 5.7 miles of existing road would receive minor reconstruction to meet current BMPs. Temporary roads constructed during the sale would be reclaimed following harvest activities.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ISSUES:**

- Public involvement was solicited through legal notices in the *Tobacco Valley News* and letters were also sent to adjacent landowners and special interest groups. The Edna Mountain II project analysis is contained in the Old Highway EA. The areas of concern specific to the Edna Mountain Section were wildlife, fuel reduction, sensitive plants, and the spread of noxious weeds. The public, DNRC specialists, and specialists from other agencies helped identify the issues that were analyzed in the Old Highway EA (April 2006).

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS, ISSUES, AND MITIGATIONS:**

- **Fuels Reduction** – This area has several rural homesteads surrounding the Edna Mountain section and is within a wildland urban interface. This project would reduce dense fuels on more than 229 acres. Those areas within 1,000 feet

of a house would have additional cleanup of logging slash. Wildland firefighting efforts would benefit from the upgraded transportation system and reduced fuels following harvest.

- **Noxious Weeds** – The spread of weeds would be limited using an integrated weed-management plan: Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site. Several roads that are used would also be sprayed with herbicides to treat existing weeds. All disturbed areas would be grass seeded. The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.
- **Sensitive Plants** – Several sensitive plants are associated with the wetlands on this section. The harvest area and roads are outside of the 50-foot riparian and streamside management zones, and all sale operations would avoid these areas. No weed spraying would occur in the riparian or sensitive plant areas.
- **Wildlife** – The project area involves lands within identified and delineated big game winter ranges. This project proposal would harvest approximately 204 acres of a 170,000-acre block of winter range. Deer, elk, and moose are expected to continue to use this area. Currently, some elements of elk security are lacking due to the proximity of the State parcel to open roads. Hunter access would not change by implementing the action alternative. Retention of shrubs and trees along open roads, road closures, broken topography, and pockets of untreated areas would maintain limited sight distances within the project area.

**The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Edna Mountain II Timber Sale.**

# Attachment A

## Edna Mountain II Timber Sale - Unit Map (2 of 3)

### Section 16, T34N R26W






#### LEGEND


##### Harvest method

-  Seedtree
-  Commercial thin

##### Roads

-  Open roads
-  Haul roads
-  Concrete barrier

##### Water

-  Streams

##### Ownership

-  U.S. Forest Service
-  Private
-  State of Montana

Unit	Acres	Harvest Type
1	119	Seedtree
2	32	Seedtree
3	9	Seedtree
4	3	Seedtree
5	10	Seedtree
6	20	Seedtree
7	12	Commercial thin
8	22	Commercial thin
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227</b>	

1,500 750 0 1,500 Feet

3637 Road



# Attachment A

## Edna Mountain II Timber Sale - Vicinity Map (1 of 3)

Section 16, T34N, R26W



Edna Mountain II  
Timber Sale Area

Trego, MT

4.0 mile

Dickey  
Lake

### LEGEND

- Rail road tracks
- Lakes
- U.S. 93
- Haul Road

#### Ownership

- Forest Service
- State of Montana (DNRC)